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For Constipation and Headache.
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The best Mild Aperient for Delicate Constipation, Ladies, Children, and Infants, and for regular use in Warm Climates. Sold throughout the World.
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Hongkong, 7th August, 1891.

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LIMITED.

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SEEDS.

SEASON 1891-92.

PER SE. "SHANGHAI."

We have received our second supply of

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

and we are now executing all orders for

the same. Complete Catalogues with prices

and directions for sowing can be obtained on

application or will be posted to any address. In these

Catalogues the seeds are marginally numbered

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quite sufficient to state the numbers of the kinds

required.

M.A.—All seeds are tested on arrival before

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Orders from one person, of from \$5 to \$10

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Orders from one person, over \$10 allowed an

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Early application is requested.

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A high class fertilizer for pot plants and for

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nutrients to the soil, and assists the process

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Sold in 100 lb. casks, 50 lb. casks, and 25 lb. casks.

Prices—25 lb. cask, \$1.00; 50 lb. cask, \$1.80;

100 lb. cask, \$3.00.

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A. S. WATSON & COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 17th September, 1891.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the present columns

should be addressed to "The Editor."

Correspondents are requested to forward their names

and address with communications addressed to the

Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good

faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should

be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that time the supply is limited.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 31st, 1891.

It is now some months since anything has

been heard of the Canton and Kowloon

Railway, but the scheme is, we have reason

to believe, far from dead. In December last

the Viceroy submitted a memorial strongly

recommending the project, and in due course

the Imperial sanction was given, but was

transmitted with a number of more or less

trivial questions which had to be answered

before the work could be gone on with.

Satisfactory replies to these questions were

given, and so far as Peking is concerned the

major may be said to be settled. But the

Chinese administrative system is fruitful

in causes of delay. The Imperial sanction

having been obtained, the local officials have

to be treated with in order to secure their

good-will and prevent obstruction. The

Viceroy himself is most favourable to the

project, and his brother, Li Hsun-chang,

Viceroy of Chihli, has also evinced consid-

erable interest in it and has sent down officials

on three separate occasions to try and smooth

out the difficulties that have thus far pre-

vented the work being taken in hand. These

visits, so far as we have been able to gather,

from the changes which have taken place in

the higher offices of the province. At the

time Li Hsun-chang was appointed Viceroy

the office of Governor was vacant and the

Viceroy discharged the duties of that office

as well as his own. Since then a Governor has

been appointed, and changes have occurred

also in the offices of the Provincial Treas-

urer and the Judicial Commissioner. These

officials have seats on the Board of Provincial

Administration, and as each one has some

thing to say in the matter they have to be

approached individually and won over to the

scheme.

China might with advantage take a lesson

from the example of her neighbors.

Japan has adopted not only the scientific

and mechanical appliances of the

West, but has reorganized her adminis-

tration, and is now treated by the European

Powers as standing on a different plane

from that occupied by China. Siam, too, is

making progress. The capital city, Bang-

kok, is served by an excellent tramway,

which pays good dividends to its share-

holders and greatly conduces to the public

convenience; the King a few weeks ago turned

the first sod of a small railway to be con-

structed by private enterprise, and the tenders

for the first state railway were opened the

other day. The railway is likewise ap-

proaching China from Tonkin and through

Burmah, and the great Siam-Thai line is now

under construction. China herself has felt

compelled by the force of circumstances to

recognize the expediency of introducing rail-

ways and already the Kaiping line in the

North is in successful operation and is being

extended to Shan-hai-kuan. This line owes

its existence to the foresight and energy of

Li Hsun-chang, who, opposed as he is to the

presence of foreigners in the country, is

fully sensible of the advantages of foreign

appliance. But with all the weight of his

position, Li Hsun-chang gives in favour of

the defective system of administration and

the conflicting interests of individual officials

whose enlightenment is still in the rudimen-

tary stage. Of this we have an instance in

the stagnation of the Canton-Kowloon Rail-

way scheme. Notwithstanding the Imperial

sanction and the approval of the Viceroy it is

found impracticable to get on with the work.

Such a condition of affairs would be impos-

sible either in Japan or Siam, but in China,

with its loose adjustment of the relative

responsibilities of the different officials, the

executive power expands itself in playing at

cross-purposes.

It is to be hoped, however, that it will

not be long before the Board of Pro-

vincial Administration arrives at an agree-

ment with regard to the Canton and Kow-

loon Railway. The advantages the work

would bring to the province are patent. It

has been suggested that the railway would

be unable to compete with the river

steamers and on that account would not be

a financial success. No one could expect

that the railway would run the steamers

off the Pearl River, it would in fact be

more likely to contribute to their traffic,

inasmuch as it would open up a new tract

of country at present possessing but slow

and difficult means of communication with

the river. This new country would ensure

good profits to the railway. The route to

be followed by the proposed line passes

through a rich agricultural country and

touches many important towns and

villages whose prosperity would be

largely augmented by improved means of

sending their goods to the markets where

they are ultimately disposed of. The capital

required has practically been all underwritten

and will be forthcoming as soon as the line

can be commenced, and there are in the

province a number of men, formerly engaged

on the building of the American and other

lines who would be willing to take up the

contracts for construction, so that the work

would not be dependent altogether on unskil-

ful labour. All the conditions are favourable

to success, both in regard to the construction

and the subsequent working of the line, pro-

vided the affair is conducted on a purely

commercial basis and the officials refrain

from active interference in the carrying out

of the details. This, however, is the great

danger which threatens all joint-stock un-

der takings in China, and it is to this point

that the attention of reformers ought to be

directed.

somewhere in China. Now geographically

Hongkong is located in China, but it should

be the constant policy of the British Govern-

ment to officially ignore this fact in deference

to Chinese susceptibilities and to disabuse

the Chinese living in the Colony of the idea

that it in any way forms part of the Chinese

dominions. Why the regiment could not be

called the Hongkong Rifles we fail to see,

or if it is a light infantry regiment it might

be termed the Hongkong Light Infantry.

We commend this little matter to the atten-

tion of General BARNES, who may perhaps

be able to obtain a revision of the proposed

designation of the new regiment.

H.M.S. Egeria to leave Singapore for

Bombay on the 24th inst. and will probably be

gone for eight months.

The "pick-up" cricket match will commence

at 2 p.m. to-day (Saturday) at 11 a.m. Members

wishing to play should be on the ground at that

hour.

A fire occurred at Ma-on on Thursday evening

in a paper shop, 179, Choi Shui Ma Street,

near the Hong Kong Hotel. The fire did not

extend beyond the house it originated in.

The North-east monsoon has set in and the

Highlanders have been told to the chilly

blast. The regiment has discarded trousers and

appeared on parade yesterday morning in kilts.

It was reported yesterday, though the report

has not yet been confirmed, that Colonel Elliot,

Inspector-General of the Barbados Police Force,

has been appointed Captain Superintendent of

the Hongkong Police.

Some enterprising Chinese, we hear, are

talking of introducing back gambles to Hong-

kong. With reckless and unscrupulous to contend

with the prospect of the gambles receiving an

official patronage make them a not very

promising.

The case of Pittman v. the Directors of the

Shimien Light Company was down on the list

for hearing in the Summary Court yesterday.

The present, and on the application of

Mr. Francis Smith the case was

struck off the list.

To-morrow morning, between 9 and 10.30

o'clock, the steam launch Daylight, carrying

the Bethel flag, will allége along its usual

course past the Government House, and will

be followed by the launch of the (Siam's)

Church, returning about 12.30.

After some delay, says the *Hank*, it was

settled last week that the 79th Canton Highlanders

are to leave Edinburgh (Edin) next

February for Malta, and for Bradford,

and for the 79th Highlanders, and for the

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will

return on their return from Hongkong.

Today's says that as soon as the Russian

Sanitary Board meets again, a bill will be

laid before it for the creation of a new line of

and passenger steamers to be run between

between Russia and India, China, Japan,

and Eastern Siberia. The Company to be

formed will have a capital of ten million roubles.

Mr. Huang Choon Hien, formerly Secretary

of the Chinese Legation in London and now the

Chinese Legation in Hongkong, is reported to

be in the city, and is expected to stay for

some time. He is reported to be in the city,

and is expected to stay for some time.

Refugee's telegram as published at Singapore

states that Lieut. A. M. Tennant, of the

Coldstream Guards, has been appointed to

the post of Captain of the Coldstream

Guards, and is expected to arrive in Hong-

kong on the 1st inst. He is expected to

arrive in Hongkong on the 1st inst. He is

expected to arrive in Hongkong on the 1st

inst. He is expected to arrive

